



Springfield-Greene County Park Board update: June 13, 2022

Rotary Clubs honored for contributions to Parks

The Park Board recognized five Springfield Rotary clubs for ongoing and recent contributions to parks at the June 10 board meeting.

Springfield's North and Southeast Rotary clubs combined their 2021-2022 grant funding to make improvements at the Betty and Bobby Allison Miracle League Ball Field. Improvements installed this spring includes a new shade structure for the seating area behind home plate, a permanent sound system, lights in the dugouts, and restriping field lines and batters boxes.

The Downtown Rotary Club contributed \$16,000 in 2021-2022 grant funding to the Park Board Youth Recreation Scholarship Fund. This donation provided scholarships to 200 income-qualifying youth, allowing kids to go to day camp, play sports, take classes and more.

Rotary clubs continue to work together to install Peace Poles in five Springfield Parks. This is an international Rotary effort to help spread and emphasize peace around the world. A Peace Pole was recently installed at Jordan Valley Park and another is coming soon to the Peace Through People Pavilion at Springfield Botanical Gardens.

Over the last two decades, Rotary clubs have supported numerous parks improvements, including at Jordan Valley Park, home of the K-Park and K-Man, the Rotary Outdoor Classroom, the climbing rock, the Springfield Wagon play features, and picnic tables and shade structure. Rotary Club North was instrumental in establishing the Betty and Bobby Allison Miracle League Ball Field in 2011.

Springfield Botanical Gardens improvements underway

At the June 10 Park Board meeting, Botanical Center coordinator Katie Keith presented an update of several projects taking place in 2021 and the current year, at Springfield Botanical gardens at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, including:

- The Azumaya structure has been relocated from south of the Busch Building, to near the Japanese Garden Pavilion. The move was made possible through labor and in-kind donations from Conco Companies, Carson-Mitchell, Inc. and Carpenters Local #948. The Azumaya is a traditional Japanese structure made entirely of wood, and was a gift to the City of Springfield from sister city, Isesaki, Japan.
- The Rose Garden entryway is being updated, including a new sculpture commissioned by Carolyn Gerdes, with a dedication planned for Sunday, July 3, 3 p.m.
- New pathway and surfaces have been installed at playgrounds, the Rose Garden, the White Garden, the Anne Drummond Garden, the Founders Garden and the Peace Garden, enhancing safety and accessibility.

- Construction is nearly complete on the new Kachel Fountain, between the Great Lawn and Drummond Lake. A dedication is expected later this summer.
- A Human Sundail is being installed this summer on the peninsula on the far side of the lake.
- New golf cart-style people hauler with an accessible trailer was purchased through a CFO grant, replacing the former Solar Tram as a means to provide group tours in the park.

Total recent investment in Parks is \$807,385. More than 90 percent of that investment comes from donors, sponsors and grants, with \$71,000 from Parks funds.

Other current projects at Springfield Botanical Gardens include:

- A volunteer has cleared brush to create a new seating area along the lakeshore, called Drummond Cove.
- A lavender research trial is underway at Master Gardener Demonstration Garden.
- The Roston Native Butterfly House has logged 13,000 visitors in the first four weeks of operation this spring, up 45 percent over 2021.
- The Butterfly Festival returns Sat., June 18, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., with free admission, vendors, crafts, performances, Caterpillar Petting Zoo, costume parade and more. Details at www.friendsofthegarden.org/butterfly-festival-2022/

Golf and Disc Golf Course honors

Springfield's Rivercut Golf Course has been named a [Top 10 public-access course in Missouri](#) by Golfweek, a division of USA Today, on June 1. The list, called Best Courses You Can Play 2022, also includes Big Cedar Lodge, Branson Hills and Ledgestone golf courses.

The [Lake Springfield Disc Golf Course](#) was named to the [5 Best Disc Golf Courses in Missouri](#) by UDisc, the App for Disc Golfers. The 18-hole course at Lake Springfield Park opened in Fall 2021 and has been immensely popular throughout the year. The same app names Springfield, Mo., as No. 68 among [Top Cities for Disc Golf](#), based on the number and quality of courses in the area, including at Lake Springfield, Oak Grove Park, Tom Watkins Park and McBride School-Park.

Upcoming Parks events, details at ParkBoard.org/Events:

June 17-19	Queen City Open Pickleball Tournament at Cooper Tennis Complex
June 18	Juneteenth Observance at Silver Springs Park and Timmons Hall, 12-4 p.m.
June 18	Butterfly Festival at Springfield Botanical Gardens, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
June 18	35 th Annual Summer Classic Softball Tournament at Meador Park
June 19	Fathers and Mentors Day at Timmons Hall, 11 a.m.-1:30 pm. or 2-4:30 p.m.
June 21	Go Skateboarding Day at Springfield Skate Park, 3-9 p.m.
June 25	Summer Snowfest at Jordan Valley Park, 12-14 p.m.
July 4	Discount Splash & Sizzle Swimming at Grant Beach and Meador Pools, 12-5:20 p.m.
July 8	Racquet White and Blue at Grant Beach Park, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
July 9	7 th Annual Summer Bash Softball Tournament at Meador Park
July 10	Teddy Bear Picnic at Springfield Botanical Gardens, 2-4 p.m.
July 16	City-Wide Youth Baseball Tournament at Cooper Park
July 17	Bark in the Park (rescheduled) Phelps Grove Park, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.